

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 180522

EXDIS, MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 11361 SENT ACTION SECSTATE, SECDEF
28 JUL 77

QUOTE S E C R E T TOKYO 11361

EXDIS

STATE FOR EA/GLEYSTEN

DEFENSE FOR ISA/ADMIRAL HILTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: JA, MARR, KS
SUBJECT: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE VISIT: MEETING WITH MINISTER OF
DEFENSE MIHARA

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1. FOLLOWING IS UNCLEARED MEMCON ON SECRETARY BROWN'S MEETING
WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE MIHARA, VICE MINISTERS
HAMADA AND MARUYAMA AND OTHER JDA OFFICIALS JULY 27.

2. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS MINISTER MIHARA SAID IT WENT WITHOUT
SAYING EA PEACE AND SECURITY DEPENDED ON EXISTENCE US FORCES,
AND CONCERN ABOUT KOREAN TNLOP WITHDRAWALS REPRESENTED NOT
MERELY GOVERNMENT OPINION BUT WAS CONCERN OF JAPANESE PEOPLE.
INASMUCH AS JAPANESE VIEWS HAD BEEN FRANKLY PRESENTED DURING
BROWN-HABIB VISIT, JAPANESE SIDE WOULD NOT REPEAT THEM

THIS TIME BUT WOULD LIKE TO HEAR RESULTS OF SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS IN KOREA.

3. SECRETARY BROWN SAID US RECOGNIZED GREAT JAPANESE INTEREST IN US FORCE DISPOSITION IN WESTPAC, KOREA IN PARTICULAR, AS WELL AS NEED TO CONSULT WITH JAPAN BEFORE AND DURING 4-5 YEAR WITHDRAWAL PROCESS. SECRETARY PROCEEDED TO REVIEW ESSENTIAL POINTS OF SCM MEETING. IN REITERATING PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO KOREAN SECURITY, SECRETARY HAD DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT PARZJ LETTER UNDERSCORING COMMITMENT, WHICH HE BELIEVED REASSURED ROK. IT REFLECTED US DETERMINATION TO REMAIN MAJOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC POWER⁹⁶ MAINTAINING POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRENGTH IN AREA.

4. IN LIGHT NORTH KOREAN BUILDUP IN RECENT YEARS, INCLUDING WEAPONS ACQUISITION AND ADVANCEMENT DEFENSE INDUSTRY, ROK WAS CONVINCED THREAT REMAINED SERIOUS. AT SAME TIME ROK WAS BUILDING UP AND MODERNIZING DEFENSE FORCES SO THAT US CONCLUDED IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE OVER 4-5 YEAR PERIOD TO CREATE NECESSARY ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND INDUSTRIAL CAPABILITY TO MEET THREAT. IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO WITHDRAW FIRST INCREMENT OF 6,000 MEN, 2,900 FROM SECOND DIVISION AND
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3,100 FROM NON-DIVISIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DURING 1978; DETAILS WERE NOT YET DECIDED RE UNITS FOR SUBSEQUENT INCREMENT. HQ SECOND DIVISION AND HQ TWO BRIGADES WOULD REMAIN UNTIL FINAL INCREMENT WITHDREW 4-5 YEARS HENCE.

5. ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING PLANNED FOR COMBINED COMMAND TO BE ACTIVATED BEFORE FIRST INCREMENT WITHDRAWN. COMMANDER WOULD BE FOUR-STAR US GENERAL; UNC AND ARMISTICE AGREEMENT WOULD BE UNEFFECTED.

6. TO RETAIN MILITARY BALANCE DURING WITHDRAWAL PERIOD NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN:

(1) SIZEABLE AIR UNITS WOULD REMAIN IN KOREA AND WESTPAC WITH TACAIR KOREA BEING AUGMENTED TO BRING IT UP TO FULL-WING SIZE;

(2) EQUIPMENT ITEMS WOULD BE TRANSFERRED FROM SECOND DIVISION; WHILE LIST STILL BEING WORKED OUT, ITEMS UNDER DISCUSSION INCLUDED AT WEAPONS, HELICOPTERS, ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS, ETC.

(3) NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS SUCH AS ARMOR WOULD BE AVAILABLE THROUGH FMS. WE WERE WORKING TO GET CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT TO FMS. COMBINED

TRANSFERS AND FMS WOULD AMOUNT TO NEARLY ONE BILLION DOLLARS. APART FROM THIS AUGMENTATION, IT WAS INTENDED TO CONTINUE FMS AT ABOUT SAME LEVEL AS PAST, E.G., FY 77 SALES WERE SET AT DOLS 275 MILLION.

7. TAKEN TOGETHER THESE MEASURES SHOULD ASSURE SECURITY ON PENINSULA. US WOULD ALSO SUPPORT CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT ROK DEFENSE INDUSTRY AND SOME CO-PRODUCTION FACILITIES, SO THAT ROK IN NEXT DECADE SHOULD HAVE CAPABILITY TO MEET
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MOST OF ITS NEEDS APART FROM SUCH ITEMS AS AIRCRAFT AND MISSILES. ECONOMIC CAPABILITY TO SUPPORT FORCES EXISTED BUT JAPANESE COULD ASSIST BY HELPING TO KEEP ECONOMY HEALTHY.

8. COMBINATION OF ROK MILITARY AUGMENTATION PROGRAM; US INTENTION TO RETAIN STRONG AIR AND NAVAL FORCES IN KOREA, AND NEARBY, TOGETHER WITH SUPPORTING LOGISTICAL, INTELLIGENCE AND COMMUNICATION UNITS IN KOREA; AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S ASSURANCE THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN US COMMITMENT, AND MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY REMAINED FULLY IN FORCE WERE INTENDED TO CONVEY MESSAGE US WAS PREPARED TO PROVIDE PROMPT SUPPORT TO MEET AGGRESSION. NEITHER NORTH KOREA NOR ANY OTHER COUNTRY SHOULD HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT CONTINUED STRENGTH OF TREATY.

8. MINISTER MIHARA SAID HE HAD HEARD ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER AND WAS VERY PLEASED WITH IT AND RESULTS OF SCM.

9. IN RESPONSE TO VICE MINISTER MARUYAMA'S QUESTION ABOUT PLANS FOR SECOND DIVISION AFTER ITS WITHDRAWAL, SECRETARY BROWN SAID IT WAS CURRENTLY INTENDED TO DEPLOY IT TO US WHERE IT WOULD BE AVAILABLE AS PART OF CENTRAL RESERVE FOR USE IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD, THEREBY ADDING TO US FORCES'S FLEXIBILITY.

10. ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR ROK FORCES'S MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, SECRETARY SAID IT WAS NOT EASY TO GENERALIZE ABOUT VARIOUS COMPONENTS, INCLUDING NO-COST TRANSFERS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, CREDITS AND FMS. CONSULTATION HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR TWO MONTHS AND HE BELIEVED IT WOULD IN TIME PRODUCE NECESSARY SUPPORT. WE
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WERE TALKING ABOUT 4-5 YEARS, HOWEVER, AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY ROK ITSELF OVER PERIOD OF TIME. MARUYAMA ASKED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE DIFFICULTY OBTAINING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL IN EVENT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR US TO

REINTRODUCE FORCES. SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND TWO BRIGADES WHICH WOULD REMAIN UNTIL END OF WITHDRAWAL PROGRAM WOULD BECOME ENGAGED IN ANY CONFLICT AND EVEN AFTER WITHDRAWALS SOME FORCES AND AIR FORCE WOULD BE ENGAGED. WAR-POWERS ACT PERMITTED PRESIDENT TO COMMIT FORCES TO MEET ATTACK ON US FORCES. CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL WAS REQUIRED AFTER FIXED PERIOD OF TIME IN ANY EVENT SO THAT WITHDRAWAL DID NOT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.

11. ASKED WHETHER ANY CHANGES WERE ANTICIPATED IN MARINE FORCES IN OKINAWA OR SEVENTH FLEET, SECRETARY SAID NONE WERE ENVISAGED.

12. CHAIRMAN JOINT STAFF COUNCIL ADMIRAL SAMEJIMA ASKED ABOUT RELATIONSHIP COMBINED COMMAND AND UNC AS WELL AS PLANS FOR COMPONENT COMMANDS. SECRETARY BROWN NOTED UNC INCLUDED OTHER COUNTRIES AND UNLESS NEW ARMISTICE ARRANGEMENTS WERE WORKED OUT IT WOULD REMAIN IN EXISTENCE EVEN THOUGH COMBINED COMMAND INCLUDED MUCH THE SAME CAST OF CHARACTERS. DETAILS FOR COMBINED COMMAND WERE STILL BEING WORKED OUT BUT SECRETARY ANTICIPATED COMPONENT COMMANDS WITH SOME COMMANDERS PROBABLY WEARING MORE THAN ONE HAT. AT THEB MOMENT SOME CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO APPOINTMENT OF KOREAN AS NAVAL COMMANDER WITH AMERICANS IN COMMAND OF GROUND AND AIR FORCES; KOREAN WOULD BE OVER-ALL DEPUTY COMMANDER. HOWEVER, THIS WAS STILL IN PLANNING STAGE, AND RECOMMENDATIONS REMAINED TO BE MADE TO DEFENSE MINISTERS.

13. MINISTER MIHARA ASKED ABOUT INITIATIVES TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC BALANCE, SPECIFICALLY ABOUT US
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CONTACTS WITH CHINA AND SOVIET UNION AND STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY VANCE ABOUT ARRANGING CONTACTS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AND MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH CHINA AND USSR ABOUT KOREAN PENINSULA. SECRETARY BROWN SAID CHINA AND SOVIET UNION WERE IN NO DOUBT ABOUT US INTENTION TO MAINTAIN SECURITY AND SUSTAIN STRENGTH OF ROK AND US FORCES TO DETER AND, OF NECESSARY, TO DEFEAT AGGRESSION. HE DID NOT BELIEVE EITHER PRC OR USSR WANTED RENEWED CONFLICT. SECRETARY NOTED ROK PROPOSAL OF NON-AGGRESSION TREATY AND US SUPPORT OF RESUMPTION OF TALKS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA, SUSPENDED BY NORTH KOREA IN 1973, AS EXAMPLES OF STEPS TAKEN TO REDUCE TENTION ON PENINSULA. US WAS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE ALL POWERS CONCERNED BUT HAD REAFFIRMED IT WOULD ENTER INTO NO TALKS WITH NORTH KOREA WITHOUT PRESENCE ROK. DAY BEFORE SECRETARY LEFT WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT CARTER HAD PERSONALLY REITERATED THIS PROMISE TO HIM.

14. MINISTER MIHARA WELCOMED AGREEMENT ON WITHDRAWALS REACHED WITH ROK AND HOPED PLANS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED SMOOTHLY. SECRETARY BROWN HAD TOUCHED UPON INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR WITHDRAWALS AND MINISTER WISHED TO SOLICIT CONTINUED ATTENTION TO THIS ASPECT. SECRETARY RESPONDED US HAD GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION TO JAPANESE VIEWS AND APPRECIATED COOPERATION WITH JDA WHICH HE HOPED WOULD CONTINUE.

15. (PARLIAMENTARY) VICE MINISTER HAMADA SAID HE DID NOT HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS SORT OF MEETING, BUT HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WAS MUCH DISCUSSION IN US ABOUT JAPANESE DEFENSE EFFORT. HE WOULD LIKE SECRETARY'S FRANK OPINION ABOUT WHAT US WANTED JAPANESE TO DO. SECRETARY SAID HE WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY FOR BRIEF EXPLANATION. SMOOTH WITHDRAWALS WOULD REQUIRE COOPERATION NOT JUST BETWEEN
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ROK AND US BUT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN AREA. ROK STRENGTH RESTED ON LEVEL OF ITS ECONOMIC GROWTH. HENCE JAPANESE-KOREAN TRADE AS WELL AS INVESTMENT WAS VERY IMPORTANT. IN ADDITION TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH, IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR COUNTRIES IN AREA TO MAINTAIN MILITARY BALANCE. JAPANESE EFFORT TOWARD THIS END PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE, REGARDLESS OF SIZE COMPARED WITH US, IN THAT PERCEPTIONS OF COUNTRIES IN AREA WERE AFFECTED BY FLUCTUATIONS IN GOJ DEFENSE BUDGET. IMPROVEMENTS IN ASW, AIR DEFENSE, AEW AND LOGISTICS, ESPECIALLY WAR-RESERVE STOCKS, ALL REQUIRED BUDGET INCREASES. IN THIS CONNECTION, SECRETARY WAS HAPPY LICENSE AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN SIGNED FOR IMPROVED HAWK M-7F AND F-4E. IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE ASW AND AIR DEFENSE, SECRETARY HOPED FUNDS FOR ASW AND AEW AIRCRAFT WOULD BE INCLUDED IN FY '78 BUDGET.

16. SECRETARY SAID IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT TO ACQUIRE NEW FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. HE HAD RECENTLY SUBMITTED REQUEST TO CONGRESS TO INCREASE NUMBER OF F-15'S TO BE PROCURED BY US AND IT WAS PLANNED IN FY'81 TO UPGRADE TWO SQUADRONS AT KADENA FROM F-4 TO F-15 AIRCRAFT. SECRETARY BROWN SAID HE REGRETTED DISTORTION OF HIS OWN TESTIMONY IN REGARD TO SOME F-15 ARMAMENTS. WHILE IMPROVEMENTS STILL NEEDED, HIS CONVICTION F-15 WAS BEST FIGHTER ANYWHERE IN WORLD HAD LED HIM TO ASK CONGRESS FOR MORE AIRCRAFT THAN PRESIDENT HAD ORIGINALLY REQUESTED.

17. SECRETARY REALIZED JDA WAS UNDER SEVERE BUDGET PRESSURE, SIMILAR TO THAT FACED BY DOD, BUT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN HIS OWN RELATIONS WITH CONGRES IF HE COULD INDICATE JAPANESE DEFENSE BUDGET BEING INCREASED. THERE WERE OTHER THINGS THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL, SUCH AS LABOR-COST SHARING, BUT THESE COULD BE BETTER DISCUSSED DURING MINISTER MIHARA'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER.

18. VICE MINISTER MARUYAMA SAID THAT IN HIS BRIEFING OF
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PRESS AFTER MEETING HE WOULD FOLLOW LINES OF JOINT
COMMUNIQUE IN SEOUL BUT WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT SECOND
DIVISION WOULD NOT BE DEACTIVATED AND THAT THERE
WOULD BE NO MAJOR CHANGE IN STRUCTURE US FORCES JAPAN.
SECRETARY NOTED THAT FUTURE OF SECOND DIVISION HAD NOT
BEEN FORMALLY DECIDED AND NO PUBLIC STATEMENT HAD BEEN
MADE AS YET IN US. MARUYAMA SAID HE
WOULD NOT DISCUSS MATTER.

19. EMBASSY LEAVES DISTRIBUTION OF MEMCON TO ADDRESSEES
OR WOULD BE PLEASED TO ADD FURTHER DISTRIBUTION AS INSTRUCTED.
MANSFIELD

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

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